

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are in the application.

Claims 10, 17, 18, 21 and 26-29 are amended.

Claims 1-9 and 22-28 are allowed, and claims 17-18, 21 and 30-31 were indicated as including allowable subject matter.

Claims 10-15, 17-18, 21 and 26-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101, as allegedly being directed toward non-statutory subject matter. Without prejudice or disclaimer, each of the rejected independent claims has been amended to recite that the informational output option is "computer-generated", which is supported in the specification, and is further derived from the language of pending claim 1. The preamble of claims 10 and 29 is also amended to recite that the claim represents a computer-implemented method. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome, and no new matter added, and no new issues raised.

Per the Advisory Action, applicants have affirmatively recited in claim 10 that the method selects an optimally ordered set. Claim 10 is believed novel because it now recites "a means or step for structure", that is, in the preamble, the method is "computer-implemented" and the result is a computer generated output (a physical manifestation) or the physical manifestation of the segmented transmission line itself.

It is noted that, in claims 10 and 29, the production of a segmented transmission line per the second option is a physical transformation of matter, and this step itself need not be computer-implemented in order to meet the utility requirements. Claims 10 and 29 are amended to make clear that each of the end-product options is a "producing" step.

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Without prejudice or disclaimer to applicant's right to file a continuation application, or later contest the application of the cited references, applicants have accepted herein the claims deemed allowable by the Examiner. Claim 10 has been amended to adopt the limitation of allowable claim 21 and 28, and thus claims 10-16 and 19-20 are allowable on that basis. Claim 29 has been amended to incorporate the limitation of claim 21, and is therefore believed to be allowable on that basis.

Claim 21, now redundant, has been amended to recite a generic a generic formulation of claims 17-18, dependent from system claim 22.

Claim 28, previously redundant with claim 21, is amended to provide that the model is sequence dependent, and the output or transmission line adopt the optimal sequence.

Claim 29 is amended to affirmatively recite the limitations of claims 17 or 18, and is believed allowable on that basis. In addition, claim 29 has been amended to recite a narrower invention, which requires that the evaluation of the model be iterative, which finds antecedent basis in claim 22, element (c). It is believed that no new matter, nor new issues of patentability, are raised.

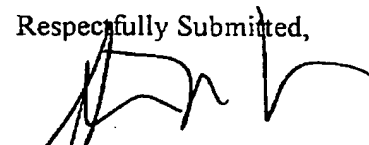
Applicant's undersigned attorney conducted a brief telephone interview with Examiner Bill Thomson to discuss formulation of this response, which is gratefully acknowledged. Since Examiner Thomson is not examiner of record, the interview was not deemed dispositive of any issue.

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It is therefore respectfully submitted that the claims are allowable.

Respectfully Submitted,



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